

JUNE 4, 1997

SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 1 AS ENACTED

GENERAL GOALS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

- To provide an integrated system of postsecondary education to enhance job opportunities and the quality of life for Kentucky's citizens.
- To make the University of Kentucky a top twenty nationally-ranked public research institution, and the University of Louisville a nationally-recognized metropolitan research university.
- To promote cooperation among the regional universities and the other postsecondary institutions to give all Kentuckians access to high quality bachelor's and master's degree programs across the state. Each of the regional universities will develop at least one nationally-recognized program of distinction or one nationally-recognized applied research program.
- To design a Kentucky Community and Technical College System that provides access to two-year general studies programs for transfer to a baccalaureate program; to technical skills programs designed to help Kentucky workers find better jobs and to attract employers to the Commonwealth; and to remedial and continuing education to improve the employability of students.
- To develop an efficient, responsive system that delivers services of a quality and a quantity that is comparable to the national average.

THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

- Creates the Council on Postsecondary Education (council) to provide direction and oversight to all of Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions. The membership includes thirteen citizen members, a faculty member, a student member, and the Commissioner of Education.
- Requires that the citizen members be from different areas of Kentucky and limits membership to no more than two having an undergraduate degree from the same Kentucky institution. The Council membership must also reflect balance between the sexes and proportional political party representation. No more than three voting members can reside in the same judicial district.
- Limits the council membership to two consecutive terms.
- Requires confirmation of membership by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Duties of the Council:

- Develop a strategic plan for postsecondary education with advice from the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education (SCOPE).
- Revise and approve the missions of the state's universities and the newly-created Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).
- Make biennial budget requests to the General Assembly and the Governor.
- Encourage cooperation among the state's institutions to make it easier for students to move between schools.
- Develop an accountability system to ensure institutions' compliance with the strategic plan and to measure: educational quality and student progress in the postsecondary education system; research and service opportunities; and use of resources by the institutions.
- Move quickly on requests by the KCTCS for the approval of new certificates, diplomas, or technical or associate degree programs.
- Eliminate existing programs or make changes in existing academic programs at the state's postsecondary educational institutions.
- May identify standardized degree programs.
- Ensure coordination, transferability and connectivity of technology among postsecondary educational institutions.
- Promote employee and faculty development statewide. Any regular full-time employee of a postsecondary public institution may, with prior administrative approval of the course offering institution, take a maximum of six credit hours per term at any public postsecondary institution.

THE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

- Creates the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education (SCOPE) a committee composed of appointees of the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Council on Postsecondary Education that will meet to discuss ideas about the future of postsecondary education in Kentucky.

Duties of SCOPE

- Advise the council on planning and budgeting goals for postsecondary education;

- Review the council's proposed objectives and benchmarks;
- Review the council's accountability reports, budget information, and budget requests; and
- Serve as search committee for selection of the first president of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND INCENTIVE FUNDING PROGRAM:

- Establishes seven investment and incentive trust funds to advance the goals of postsecondary education. The funds include:
 1. A research challenge trust fund,
 2. A regional university excellence trust fund,
 3. A technology initiative trust fund,
 4. A physical facilities trust fund,
 5. A postsecondary workforce development trust fund, and
 6. A student financial aid and advancement trust fund.
- Creates the adult education and literacy initiative fund.
- Requires the Council on Postsecondary Education to establish the criteria for the allocation of the trust funds.

THE COMMONWEALTH VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY:

- Creates the Commonwealth Virtual University to make academic programs available to the citizens of the Commonwealth through the use of modern methods of communications and information dissemination. The Distance Learning Advisory Committee will make recommendations on the implementation of the Commonwealth Virtual University to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (KCTCS):

Board of Regents:

- Establishes the Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents composed of eight lay members, appointed by the Governor to serve staggered terms with four members appointed from nominees submitted by the UK Board of Trustees and four members from nominees submitted by the Governors Postsecondary Nominating Committee. Also included are faculty members, non-teaching members, and student members from the community college and the technical institutions branches respectively.

- Requires that the members represent broad geographical distribution in Kentucky, reflect proportional balance of the two leading political parties and reflect equality in the appointment of males and females.
- Limits the members to two consecutive terms.

Duties of the Board of Regents:

- Receive grants of money and expend funds;
- Adopt bylaws, rules, and regulations for the government of its members, officers, agents, and employees including a personnel system to be developed by June 30, 1998;
- Grant diplomas and confer degrees;
- Establish guidelines for budget preparation and implementation for individual community colleges;
- Adopt an allocation process for distributing funds appropriated to the two branches;
- Select the President of the KCTCS from a list of nominees provided by a search committee;
- Evaluate the institutions' progress in implementing the missions, goals, and objectives to conform to the strategic agenda for postsecondary education;
- Approve new certificate, diploma, and associate programs before forwarding them to the council for approval; and
- Approve construction priorities and capital projects before transmitting them to the council for approval.

Branches:

- Creates the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, (KCTCS) composed of two branches: the University of Kentucky's Community College System, with the exception of the Lexington Community College, and the postsecondary technical schools which are currently part of the Cabinet for Workforce Development.
- Transfers the community colleges as soon as the regional accrediting body affirms the change process but no later than July 1, 1998. Transfers the postsecondary technical institutions effective July 1, 1998.

Administration of the System:

- Appoints a president and a chancellor to administer the two branches.
- Makes the current chancellor of the University of Kentucky Community Colleges the first chancellor of the University of Community College System under KCTCS.
- Requires the president of the KCTCS to recommend to the Board of Regents of the KCTCS the chancellor of the Technical Institutions' Branch.

KCTCS Degrees and certificates:

- Establishes four types of degree programs for students attending the University of Kentucky community College System:
 1. Associate degrees programs currently offered and approved by the University of Kentucky. Degrees will be conferred by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees. The University of Kentucky will continue to monitor these programs for quality.
 2. New associate degrees programs that will award degrees in the name of the University of Kentucky and be conferred by the university board of trustees. These programs require the approval of the board of regents and the board of trustees prior to receiving final approval from the Council on Postsecondary Education.
 3. Associate degrees developed independently of the University of Kentucky by the KCTCS, approved by the board of regents for the KCTCS and the Council on Postsecondary Education. These degrees will be conferred by the board of regents for KCTCS.
 4. Joint degree programs developed between the Technical Institution Branch and the Community College System or other postsecondary institutions.
- Permits technical degree programs to be developed by the Technical Institutions' Branch and approved by the board of regents of the KCTCS and the Council on Postsecondary Education.
- Requires all new degree, diploma, and certificate programs under KCTCS to be approved by the board of regents and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Boards of Directors

- Creates a board of directors for each community college composed of nine members appointed by the Governor.

- Establishes the following duties:
 1. Recommend the president of the community college from a list of candidates nominated by the president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
 2. Evaluate the community college president;
 3. Approve the budget request of that community college;
 4. Adopt an annual operating budget, subject to the approval of the Board of Regents of the KCTCS; and
 5. Develop and implement a plan for postsecondary education programs based on local community needs and the statewide strategic plan for postsecondary education.

KCTCS System Employee Protections:

- Guarantees the same salary, benefits, rights and privileges as provided under the employees' former personnel systems.
- Permits the board to create a new personnel system. Transferred employees may decide to be covered by the new rules. The system must include a third party independent appeal of personnel disputes.